LEVEL ONE

NORTHWEST WASHINGTON SYNOD
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Soundings

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Volume VI, Issue 1
JANUARY 1993

WHY ARE PEOPLE QUITTING THE CHURCH?

By Donene Blair

See how these Christians love one another.
Tertullian (AD 155-225)

Those of you who know me, have discovered that I am an active United Methodist (an infiltrator in the Lutheran ranks!).

I often find parallells in my experiences in the two church bodies, and recently ran across an article, *Leaving, loving and the church's health*, from THE UNITED METHODIST REPORTER which I would like to share with you. (I have obtained permission from the author/editor to excerpt the article.)

A recent survey done for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on why people leave the church revealed a disturbing contrast with ancient Christianity, and offers practical insight for us today. People interviewed for the survey rarely mentioned the church's teachings or social witness as catalysts in their leaving. Far more critical was the lack of acceptance or support they experienced. Here are some examples cited in the article:

- a woman complained that the minister failed to speak with her about a daughter who was dying
- a man who said people avoided him after his divorce
- a young mother who felt excluded from a "tight network" of others her age who had known each other for a long time.

Such reports are quite different from Tertullian's image of second-century Christians as people who "love one other!" The Presbyterian survey painted a picture of people who felt unloved, even abandoned, by other church members. They left the church because they believed the church, in effect, had left **them**--particularly at time of critical personal need.

Regardless of our denominational identity, there is a penetrating message in these findings for the community of faith.

If we as Christians don't practice the first law of our Lord--the law of love--why should people bother to "stick" with us?

How do we apply the law of love, in a tangible way, in our congregations? Active, on-going attention to the quality of personal relationships must be primary on the agenda of every congregation. At a minimum, "quality relationships" include such obvious matters as concern for and acceptance of each person. But they also include other signs of relational health too often disregarded out of a desire to "keep a lid on things," that is, to mask conflict or to promote an illusory atmosphere of harmony. Such signs include:

✓ being careful listeners;
✓ dealing patiently with one another's shortcomings;
✓ avoiding unrealistic expectations that the pastor(s) or other leaders "do it all"; and
✓ promoting honest, in-depth relationships among church members.

Emphasizing relationships within a congregation is only one of the many signs of a healthy church. Energetic outreach and a hunger to share the Gospel are equally important.

But, as this survey shows, if we don't live out "love for one another," we shouldn't be surprised when our numbers diminish and others ignore us.

IN THE NEWS

DIPLOMACY WOULD RESTORE HOPE TO SOMALIA

Bread for the World, the nation's largest citizens' movement against hunger, has called on President Bush and President-elect Clinton to mobilize extensive diplomatic efforts to coincide with military intervention in Somalia.

"We are putting band-aids on Somalia's wounds with Operation Restore Hope, but not treating the infection which threatens that nation," said Sharon Pauling, Africa policy analyst with Bread for the World. "Military intervention is necessary to save lives now, but it does not address the root political and economic causes of the crisis. Without equally energetic attention to diplomatic efforts, the violence, starvation and suffering will continue long after U.S. troops leave Somalia."

According to Pauling, this diplomatic peace process should be inclusive of clan elders, community organization, professionals and militia leaders, recognizing that solutions cannot be imposed from outside, but must be conceived, embraced and implemented by Somalis.

RELIEF NEEDS CONTINUE IN FLORIDA

The Inter-Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) wishes to extend their thanks for the wonderful response to the Hurricane Andrew disaster in South Dade County, Florida. The need for help is still great, for both money and volunteers. The need for temporary housing has exceeded expectations. Over 50 one-room "cabins" have been built at a cost of $1,600 each, and five volunteers can construct one in a day. Money and materials may be used for this purpose, and building supplies re-used for permanent structures.

Offers of volunteers and their skills, if any, may be faxed to Mary Finlan at the LDR office, (305) 592-7750, mailed to 1628 NW 82 Avenue, Miami, FL 33322, or telephoned to (305) 592-8772. Donations may be marked "Hurricane Andrew" and sent through the Region I Financial Services Office, or directly to Lutheran Ministries of Florida, 3825 Henderson Blvd., Tampa, FL 33629.

DID YOU KNOW...?

(from the Justice & Peace Office of the Archdiocese of Seattle)

✓ During the past decade the number of poor people in the U.S. has risen by about one-third while, at the same time, the available stock of low income housing has fallen by a third. We are now over five million units of low income housing short of current need.

✓ By 1986, 230,000 low income renter households were trying to fit into the 59,000 rental units available at 30% of their income. This situation has worsened in the last six years.

✓ In Washington State, twice as many people are turned away from a shelter for the homeless as are admitted on any given winter night. Thirty-one percent of the people sheltered are children, half of those under the age of five.

✓ Home ownership, the cornerstone of the American dream, has been declining in recent years. This is especially true for young families. During the 1980's, home ownership among 25- to 34-year-olds declined by approximately 20%.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

END OF FISCAL YEAR COMING SOON

The Synod's fiscal year ends January 31, 1993, and congregations are requested to send all checks to the Region 1 Financial Services Office before January 27 to be included in this year's giving. Thank you!

THE LUTHERAN EVERY HOME PLAN

Don't forget at your congregation's annual meeting to consider enrolling your congregation in the Region 1 Every Home Plan for THE LUTHERAN magazine. If you have questions about this new plan, please call Larry Reyelts, 1-800-328-4648, ext. 554. Congregations may opt to join the regional EHP at any time during the year, with costs prorated to the end of the calendar year.

TRIP TO SENEGAL PLANNED

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Seattle, is organizing a trip to Senegal in January, 1994, to visit a member of their congregation, Susheela Engelbrecht. Susheela has been working in Senegal as a medical missionary for the last five years. Anyone interested in the trip to Senegal is welcome to come to the next organizational meeting on Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's, 19421 Ashworth Ave No, Seattle. They will be discussing airfares and itineraries.

Questions? Call Pastor Kathy Hawks at 542-5338.

LOMA ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Association (LOMA) Corporation will be from 3-5:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 21, at the LOMA Center for Renewal in Issaquah. Visitors are welcome to attend. For more information, call 392-1871.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL LENTEN OFFERING FOR LATCH

On February 28, the first Sunday in Lent, Bishop Knutson is sponsoring a special offering for the Lutheran Alliance for Transitional and Community Housing (LATCH). The proceeds of the offering will help LATCH establish the Easternwood Family Housing Cooperative in Bothell, a non-profit housing project which will provide homes for 18 low-income households (most of them low-wage working single parents and their children).

Most of the $1.84 million needed for building the project has been raised from public and private financing programs. LATCH hopes to raise a final $10,000 from the church community to complete the project financing and then facilitate the creation of the Easternwood Cooperative. The organization of residents will maintain and manage the property themselves.

Congregations are encouraged to participate in this special offering in support of LATCH.

MULTICULTURAL WRITERS SOUGHT

A year-long orientation process, designed to involve ELCA African American, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American writers interested in writing for ELCA publications and resources, will begin in the fall of 1993. Geared to experienced writers, the process will include two three-day workshops with the following objectives:

- to identify 12 experienced writers, including those who are bilingual;
- to introduce participants to the range of writing opportunities for ELCA publications and resources;
- to make writers better known to editors and ELCA units, including Augsburg Fortress; and
- to enhance the skill level of these writers.

If you know of someone who may be interested in this writers workshop, please encourage him/her to obtain an application by calling Tammy Jackson in the ELCA Commission for Multicultural Ministries, 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2916. Application deadline is March 1, 1993.

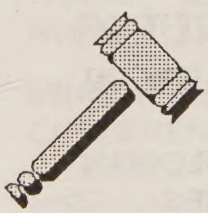
PLU REGENT NOMINATIONS

Nominations for prospective regents for Pacific Lutheran University are invited from members of ELCA congregations in Region 1. The terms are for three years, beginning with the October, 1993, board meeting. There are six positions to be filled, and incumbents are eligible for re-nomination. The Northwest Washington Synod now has two positions open.

Nomination forms may be obtained from Dr. Christy Ulleland, Secretary, PLU Board of Regents, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA 98447. Nominations close April 5, 1993.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY APPROACHES

Congregations are reminded to begin selecting their delegates to the Synod Assembly, to be held at the Red Lion Inn in Bellevue on June 26-27.



Delegates with voice and vote to the Assembly include **all clergy under call, retired clergy who have indicated their intention to be in attendance, elected representatives of the caucus of associates in ministry, synod officers, and elected lay congregational representatives.**

Lay delegates are allotted to congregations as follows:

- Every congregation receives 2 lay delegates (1 male, 1 female).
- Congregations with baptized membership between 350 and 800 receive 1 extra delegate (male or female).
- Congregations with baptized membership over 800 receive 2 extra delegates (1 male, 1 female).

The Synod Assembly theme is **Rooted in the Gospel for Witness and Service.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

A workshop for small-membership congregations (less than 300 baptized members) is being offered for congregations in the northern portion of our Synod on Saturday, January 23, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is $5.00/person for snacks and lunch. Mileage over 100 miles round trip will be reimbursed at $.28/mile. Workshop materials are being provided by the Synod Stewardship Committee and Region 1.

Who should attend? Pastors, Church Council Presidents, Treasurers, Stewardship Committee Chairs, and any other leaders. Michael Meier will lead the discussion of positive, non-coercive Biblical motivation for personal spiritual growth in holistic stewardship. There will also be opportunities for peers from similar-sized congregations to share information.

Questions? Contact Michael Meier or Paulette Claver at the Region 1 Office, 624-0093 or 1-800-755-5831.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

You are invited to attend the western Washington Church Legislative Conference on Saturday, January 30 at St. Vincent de Paul in Federal Way. Speakers and workshops will be offered on a wide range of public policy issues. If you need directions or would like to carpool, please call Steve Lansing, Director of the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington, at 623-4889.

LSSW ALTERNATIVE ARTS AUCTION

Don't forget the annual Alternative Arts Auction to benefit the Social Ministry Program of Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran Peace Fellowship on Saturday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Seattle. Donated items to be auctioned will follow the traditional theme of celebrating the artistic in all of us and honoring socially conscious lifestyles.

The admission of $15 for the evening will include an hors d'oeuvres buffet, live entertainment, and, for advance reservations, $5 of "scrip" which can be spent on auction purchases.

To reserve tickets, call LSS (672-6009) or Lutheran Peace Fellowship (322-7500).

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE WORKSHOPS

It's time again to announce the 1993 Preparation for Marriage Workshops offered by Lutheran Counseling Network. These workshops will assist pastors in their ministry to couples preparing for marriage.

The workshops are held on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- **Mar 20**, Phinney Ridge, Seattle
- **Apr 24**, Our Savior, Everett
- **May 15**, Cross of Christ, Bellevue
- **July 17**, Phinney Ridge, Seattle
- **Sept 18**, Grace, Des Moines
- **Nov 20**, Cross of Christ, Bellevue

Registration fee is $75/couple, with a $10 discount if registration and $10 deposit are postmarked 14 days prior to the workshop. A minimum of five couples is needed to hold a workshop.

For registration materials and information contact Paul Anderson (O: 258-2955, H: 485-9883) or Mark Stockslager (O: 271-9711, H: 863-0530).

KING'S PLAYERS PRODUCTION

King'splayers is a community theatre company sponsored by Christ Lutheran Church, Edmonds, which provides the community with wholesome, "G-rated" family entertainment. They will present *The Music Man* in eight performances at the Shorecrest Performing Arts Center located at Shorecrest High School, 15343 - 25 Ave NE, Seattle on March 19-21 and 26-28. For tickets and information, call 481-8446.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

VISITING THEOLOGIAN LECTURE SERIES

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Angeles is sponsoring the 1993 Visiting Theologian Lecture Series, featuring Dr. **Marcus Borg**, Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University and nationally recognized Historical Jesus scholar and writer.

Dr. Borg will present three lectures January 29-31 under the theme, ***Scripture, Story and Journey***. The first lecture will be presented on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m., followed by a full day of lecture and dialog on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (lunch on your own). On Sunday, Dr. Borg will preach at Holy Trinity at both the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services and will speak at the adult forum.

There is a $35.00 fee for church professionals (clergy and associates in ministry) and certification for 5 CEU contact hours through the LITE office. The lecture series is free to retired clergy and the general public. To register, call Paul Smithson at 452-2323.

CALLING/CARING SEMINAR

Ballard First Lutheran in Seattle will host a **Calling/Caring Seminar Lab I** on February 5-6, 19-20, March 5-6, and 19-20, with an **Introductory Session** on January 23 from 9:00 am to noon. This 40-hour seminar will be led by Pastor **Arden Barden**. The cost is $98/person, $85.50/person for 3-6 persons from the same congregation, and $73.00/person for 7-11 persons.

To register, contact Pastor Ben Bretheim or Julie at Ballard First Lutheran, 784-1306 or 743-1791.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Spiritual Development at St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle, is offering the following winter courses.

Life Transitions in a Spiritual Context, Tuesdays, February 16-March 9, 7-9:00 p.m.

Rediscovering Intimacy with the Earth, a Retreat for Men, Saturday, February 13, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

For information on these courses or for a brochure, call 329-6700.

CONTINUING ED

REGION 1 PASTORAL CONFERENCE

The Coast Plaza Hotel in Vancouver, B.C. will host this year's Region 1 Pastoral Conference on April 19-22. Registration materials are being mailed to all rostered clergy, interns, and associates in ministry. If you do not receive these materials or have questions, call Ron Martinson, Registrar, (907) 277-1622 or (907) 338-2481. The cost is $285 for rostered people, and $270 for spouses and retired pastors. Parking is $6/day or $24 for the conference for hotel guests.

The speakers this year are Pastor **Jay Rochelle** from Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, and Dr. **Roy Harrisville**, retired from Luther Northwestern Theology Seminary in St. Paul.

HOUSING CONFERENCE

An inter-Lutheran Housing Conference, ***Housing God's People: What Can One Church Do?***, is scheduled for April 24 at First Lutheran Church, Bothell. This one-day conference sponsored by the Lutheran Alliance for Transitional and Community Housing (LATCH), will present practical information on various ways that churches can participate in the struggle against homelessness, from building houses with Habitat for Humanity to sponsoring a rent subsidy program, to using church property for emergency or transitional housing.

Plan to come and learn what other churches in the region have done: what has worked well, what hasn't, how congregations have benefited from embarking on a housing ministry, and what remains to be done. For information, please call Julia Maywald, LATCH Outreach Coordinator, at 672-6009.

LAY MINISTERS CONFERENCE

The Association of Professional Lutheran Lay Ministers (APLLM) 1993 conference, ***Nurturing and Expressing Our Faith By...***, will be held at the Grünewald Guild Conference Center near Leavenworth, WA, May 10-13.

Keynote speaker is **Richard Caemmerer, Jr.**, and Bible studies will be led by **Cheryl Kulas**. Two of the workshops will be provided by Grünewald Guild staff.

Please be sure to include the following costs in your annual budget for your lay staff to attend this conference: Conference Fee (includes meals) $75 for members and $100 for non-members; housing ranges from $30-$75 depending on type of accommodations. For scholarship information, contact Cheryl Wolff, 682-3620.

TOUR THE GREAT CITIES OF EUROPE

See the sites of central Europe and the land of Luther with a small personalized tour sponsored by Pacific Lutheran University May 24-June 11, 1993. Tour is limited in size. Contact Dr. Mark Reiman, PLU Department of Economics, 535-9844; or Pastor Gary Rothenberger, 776-2444, for information and brochures.

MINISTRY IN DAILY LIFE CONFERENCE

The ELCA is sponsoring its first conference on Ministry in Daily Life, ***On Assignment from God***, June 25-28 in Kansas City, Missouri. This conference is for all who are looking for an opportunity to explore meaning in their daily lives, and exciting things are planned. The theologian will be Dr. **Timothy Lull**, with **Marj Leegard** leading the Bible study. **John Ylvisaker** will be musician and song leader. Participants are encouraged to bring instruments and voices to create, with John, a musical experience for the conference.

Participants with a bent for drama will help connect faith with life through a readers' theater presentation, and artists will be making the connection through their gifts. A series of workshops by **Evelyn ad James Whitehead** will provide stimulation and inspiration.

Call the ELCA Division for Ministry, 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2888, for a brochure, and pass the word along to folks you know who are looking for this kind of experience.

WANT ADS

ORGANIST POSITIONS

Zion Lutheran Church, Kent, is seeking an **Organist/Music Coordinator**; tracker organ and grand piano; coordinate special music offerings, accompany adult choir. Call 631-0100.

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Seattle, is searching for an **Organist** who would be available at least through 1993; play for one weekly worship service, accompany senior choir at weekly choir rehearsals. Call 364-2510.

Wanted: Organist Position. Resident of Bremerton following military duty with 16 years experience in church music and liturgy. Bachelor of Theology with concentration in Liturgics. **Ronald Vanasdlen,** 479-2164.

HOUSING SOUGHT

A 31-year-old blind diabetic woman who uses a wheelchair (except in the house) and her six-year-old daughter wish to re-locate from Florida to Washington State. They are looking for a one-level condo or similar accommodation with two or three bedrooms in a high security, quiet neighborhood with good outdoor play area for children, near school with bus transportation, grocery store and mall. Lease with option to buy.

Please contact Joan Flygenring (mother), 2300 Loussac Drive, Anchorage, AK 99517; (907) 248-4727.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CALENDAR

JANUARY

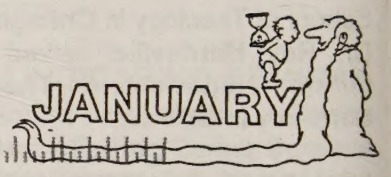
26 Ecumenical Commission, noon, St. John, Seattle
27 Cluster Deans, 10:00 a.m., St. John, Seattle
29 BISHOP'S CONVOCATION, Bethel of Shoreline, Seattle
30 Partners for Nurture, 8:00 a.m., Lutheran Bible Institute, Issaquah

FEBRUARY

2 Executive Committee, 7:30 a.m., St. John, Seattle
3 Clergy Tax Workshop, noon, St. Andrew's, Bellevue
9 Finance Committee, 6:00 p.m., Prince of Peace, N Seattle
13 Leadership Support Committee, 9:00 a.m., Trinity, Lynnwood
15 HOLIDAY--SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED
17 Synod Assembly Planning meeting, 7:30 a.m., St. Luke, Bellevue
20 Congregational Financial Workshop, 8:30 a.m.-noon, First, Mt Vernon
23 Personnel Committee, 3:00 p.m., St. Joh, Seattle
23 Prevention of Domestic Violence Workshop, 1:00 p.m., St. John, Seattle

MARCH

2 Executive Committee, 7:30 a.m., St. John, Seattle
4 Candidacy Committee, 9:00 a.m., St. John, Seattle
4 Convocation Planning meeting, 1:00 p.m., St. John, Seattle
5-6 Retreat Leader Training, LOMA, Issaquah
6 Congregational Financial Workshop, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Luther Memorial, Seattle
13 Handicapping Conditions Committee, 9:00 a.m., Ebenezer, Lake Stevens
13 SYNOD COUNCIL, 9:00 a.m., Holy Spirit, Kirkland



1993

CALLS ACCEPTED — LP=Lead Pastor, A=Associate, Y=Youth Pastor

William D. Anderson	Lakeridge, Seattle		01/01/93
Debra R. H. Benson (A)	Salem, Mt Vernon		02/01/93
Lewis R. H. Benson (A)	Salem, Mt Vernon		01/01/93
Paul B. Benz	St. Peter, Clinton		01/01/93
Lynn B. Peterson (A)	Christ the Servant, Bellingham		02/01/93

AIM APPOINTMENT(S) ACCEPTED

None this month

INSTALLATIONS

William D. Anderson	Lakeridge, Seattle	01/17/93
Debra R. H. Benson	Salem, Mt Vernon	02/14/93
Lewis R. H. Benson	Salem, Mt Vernon	02/14/93
Paul B. Benz	St. Peter, Clinton	01/10/93
Lynn B. Peterson	Christ the Servant, Bellingham	02/21/93

ORDINATION(S)

None this month

ANNIVERSARIES/DEDICATIONS

None this month

RESIGNATION(S)

Suzanne Olson Appelo	Prince of Peace, N Seattle	01/22/93
Paul Braafladt	Bethlehem, Seattle	01/01/93
Brian J. Claasen	Anacortes, Anacortes	12/
David E. Cox	First, West Seattle	12/
Lynn B. Peterson	Grace, Des Moines	01/

RETIREMENTS

Paul Braafladt	Bethlehem, Seattle	01/01/93
M. B. "Buzz" Kahn	Cross of Christ, Bellevue	01/31/93

TRANSFER(S) IN/OUT OF SYNOD

William D. Anderson	from Sierra Pacific Synod	01/01/93
Debra R. H. Benson	from NW Minnesota Synod	02/01/93
Lewis R. H. Benson	from NW Minnesota Synod	02/01/93
Paul B. Benz	from Southern Ohio Synod	01/01/93

CONGREGATIONS IN CALL PROCESS — CP=Congregational Profile, I=Interviewing, NV=New Vacancy, C=Calling, Int=Interim, V=Vacancy

Bellevue, Cross of Christ	NV	Iver Haugen, Lead Pastor	
Bellevue, St. Luke (A)	CP	Tom Kidd, Pastor	
Des Moines, Grace (A)	NV	Ed Markquart, Lead Pastor	
Everett, Trinity	I	Norm Nelson, Interim	
Marysville, Bethlehem	Int	Lothar Pletz, Interim	
Seattle, Gethsemane (LP)	Int	Don Clinton, Interim	
Seattle, First, Rchmd Beach (LP)	CP		
Seattle, Hope	Int	Carol Tomer, Interim	
Seattle, Prince/Peace So	I		
Seattle, Queen Anne	CP	Randall Bullo, Interim	
Sedro Woolley, Bethlehem (A)	I	Gene Bradbury, Pastor	
Startup, Shepherd/Valley	V		